

AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM:

OMNIS FERET OMNIA TELLUS. VIRG.

Vol. I.] *Georgetown, Ca. August 1, 1810.* [No. 3.

FOR THE AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM.

It is believed that when the census now taking, is completed, the population of the City of Washington, and the two towns in the District of Columbia, will be found to have doubled in the last ten years, unpropitious as these years have been, to the growth of towns depending for their prosperity on that kind of trade, which has for its basis, the products of our own country ;—and which are too remote from the sea, to rival towns on the sea-board, in what is called, the carrying trade.

If in such times the increase of population has been so great, what may not be expected, in the next ten years to come, in which, and perhaps in all future times, for at least half a century, it seems more than probable, from the state of the world, we must content ourselves with that trade only, which depends upon our own resources? And it will, I doubt not, be a happy circumstance for the country, if we can bring ourselves to so much moderation, as to aim at no more—indeed, this properly cultivated, will be enough for all our activity, and all our enterprize. In such a state of things, the progress of Washington, and the other towns in the District, will bear some proportion to the magnitude of the back-country with which nature has connected them.

It is well known, that the country west, and north and south west of the District, watered by streams tributary to the Potomak, and affording, for some months in the year, inland navigation for several hundred miles, is certainly amongst the most fertile on the eastern waters; and may be justly denominated the grain country

of the Atlantic States. Extravagant as it may seem, it is nevertheless true, that even at this moment, an equal market price for flour, and grain of all kinds, would attract to the District, more abundant supplies than any one town in the United States annually receives—and for this, there is the plainest reason in the world—because the growers of the article in the largest and finest grain country, would be subjected to less expense in transporting it to the District, than in carrying it to any other market accessible to sea vessels—and this advantage in favor of the district, will become more decisive every succeeding year, as the inland navigation of Potomak, and its different branches, becomes more perfect.

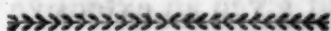
My present object, however, is not to point out the commercial advantages of the situation of the District of Columbia—but rather to call the attention of the Proprietors of the lands in the vicinity, to the importance of making due efforts for their improvement, with a view to the supply of the growing market at their door—particularly, with those articles which either will not bear the carriage, or which, from other circumstances, cannot be so well supplied, from a distance.

The kind of land which more immediately calls for improvement, and which will best reward the labour of the judicious improver, is that, which is now but little better than an incumbrance to the owner, but which is capable of being converted into meadow, at an expence trifling indeed, in comparison with the annual profits it will be sure to yield. Meadow ground, under proper cultivation, is no where so valuable as in the neighborhood of the District—in no other place, is there so great a demand for grass, and all the articles depending on grass;—hence it is, that these articles, so essential to the daily consumption of towns, constantly command prices from 20 to 50 per cent. higher in the District, than in the great markets of Philadelphia and Baltimore—and it need not be apprehended, that the improvement of such land can be too general—or too rapid—no efforts in the

power of the proprietors to make, can keep pace with the still more rapid increase in the population of the District.

Each owner of such land will be able to calculate for himself the expence of laying it down in grass—the profits will probably exceed any idea he may be able to form on the subject, without some knowledge of the value of such lands near other markets. In the neighbourhood of Philadelphia, I am informed, the annual rent of land of this description is from 25 to 30 dollars per acre—the price for the fee, three hundred to four hundred dollars—in the vicinity of New York the prices are not less considerable, and around Baltimore, but little inferior.—Surely this should be sufficient to excite the Proprietors of low lands, near the District, to the most animated exertions for their improvement—Many hundreds of acres are so situated as to be capable of being converted into the most valuable meadow, at an expence per acre less than annual rents near Philadelphia.

A FARMER.



CLERMONT MERINO SHEEP SHEARING.



On the 15th May the sheep shearing of his Merino flock was celebrated by the Hon. R. R. Livingston, at his mansion in Clermont, amidst a large concourse of his fellow citizens.

Farmers from the different districts of the State attended on this occasion. In addition to those who came from the other counties, several gentlemen from Albany and New York were present, and connoisseurs from different States of the Union, were observed among the company.

More than usual interest was attached to this exhibition, from the consideration that Mr. Livingston is the person to whom we are indebted for the first introduction of the Merino sheep into the country, and for the first public shearing in the Northern States. The

stock which he originally imported from the national flock of Rambouillet, in France, has multiplied many fold since its introduction in 1801. It is now ascertained by experiment, that this race of sheep will thrive well in our climate. Through a series of generations there is not the least indication of degeneracy; on the other hand, the late cold Northeast storm, during the present month, has afforded reason to conclude that they are more hardy than our common sheep. The wool retains its exquisite fineness, with an increase of quantity, and the excellent broad cloths and kerseymeres which have been manufactured from it, have completely established its character. Henceforward may we look to our domestic supplies of wool for clothing. There is nothing extravagant in the belief, that in a few years the wool of the Northern States will equal the cotton of the Southern: and the foundation is already laid for the entire independence of our citizens on the woollen fabrics of every foreign market.

To encourage the growing spirit of internal enterprize, Mr. Livingston had given an extensive invitation to his fellow citizens. The numerous and respectable body who collected evinced the lively curiosity which was excited. The shearing of the full blooded Merinos, with their different grades, mixtures and crosses, afforded a novel and engaging spectacle. The day was remarkably fine. The shearing was performed in the presence of the spectators, who examined the fleeces, one by one, as they were taken off. And the fairest opportunity was afforded of inspecting, as well the size and figure of the animals, as the weight and fineness of their fleeces.

The results of the shearing were highly satisfactory. Among the facts disclosed during the day's work, the following were more particularly noticed:

The fleeces of the old ram from Rambouillet, and of a young full-blooded ram rising two years old, weighed each nine pounds: the fleece of a young ram rising one year old weighed upwards of eleven pounds; another

the bridge at Washington. It is built upon 98 sections, each consisting of five piles, is 2187 feet long, and 33 feet wide. The piles are defended from the worm, most of them by lead, and some by copper. There are two side walks, which are to be lighted by forty lamps. The causeway at the extremity of the bridge in St. Philip's Parish is 1300 feet long, at the extremity in St. Andrews, 1800. The last pile was driven on the 28th June, and it is expected that in less than a month from this time the bridge will be open to travellers. It is the first work of the kind ever attempted in the Southern States, and has been performed with unprecedented zeal and rapidity, reflecting much honor on the enterprize of those concerned.

Charleston Times.

Charleston Times.



AMERICAN MILLSTONE MANUFACTORY.

An extensive bed of Stone has lately been discovered by Mr. Joseph Sigfried, in Allen Township, of a quality superior to the French bur stone.

Two enterprising millstone Manufacturers, Messrs. Spong and Christian of Reading, Berks county, came to view the stone in March last, and prepared and transported to Reading, as many as completed two pair of Mill stones which on trial surpasses even their most sanguine expectation—They have since, at a moderate rate secured for a term of years the valuable part of the bed, and are now working it to great advantage—upwards of sixty pair of these millstones have already been spoken for.

Northampton Farmer.

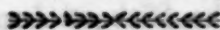
Northampton Farmer.



PITTSBURGH, (PA.) JUNE 22.

Two hundred Merino sheep arrived at the farm of Brintnal Robbins, one mile from this place, on Wednesday last, from Col. Humphrey's flock in Connecticut. They are offered for sale, or in exchange for cattle or flour. *Pol. & Com. Register.*

Pol. & Com. Register.



The brig Commerce, Bartlett, has arrived at an eastern port from Spain, with 60 Merino sheep.

THE HESSIAN FLY.



"I have noticed in some of our late papers, that the Hessian Fly has again made its appearance in the United States ; and that not only in Virginia and some other southern States, but also in some parts of this state, melancholy proofs of the ravages of this devouring insect have been discovered; I have myself also observed, that in the county of Washington, in which I reside, the fly is again desolating the fields of wheat.

"I hope so potent an enemy will not be treated with unconcern and neglect by the friends of agriculture, but that they will unite their experience with their energy to repel and counteract his insidious and baneful influence, and if possible arrest his progress in his first onset.

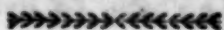
"The result of my observations respecting the Hessian Fly, when he before ravaged this country, and the plan adopted for destroying him, which appeared to me most effectual, I here subjoin, with a request you will give the same a place in your paper.

"The fly deposits its eggs in the new wheat soon after its springing up in autumn, and before there are any severe frosts; propagates in the spring, remains in a torpid state till sometime after reaping; is invariably found in the first or second joint of the stalk, and taking wings in the course of August. Cut your wheat high, remove it immediately from off the land, and without delay burn the stubble; this destroys the insect while in its torpid state, and if the burning be effectual, cuts off the Hessian Fly root and branch in one season.

"I think I may safely pledge myself to you, that if this plan of cutting the wheat and burning the stubble is universally adopted, we shall hear no more of the Hessian Fly; and that in addition thereto we shall have larger crops of grain, as the burning greatly enriches the land, and has nearly the same effect as a coat of good manure."

Albany Gazette, of June, 1799.

CELEBRATION AT HUMPHREYSVILLE:



ON the 4th of July, the citizens of New Haven were gratified with an exhibition, which for novelty, utility and patriotism, probably stands unrivalled in the records of all preceding festivals on this memorable day.

The farmers, shepherds, mechanics and manufacturers in Col. Humphreys' employ, having beforehand solicited to be usefully occupied on this day, he proposed a ploughing match, &c. and had them assembled at his farm in Yorkshire quarter, about three quarters of a mile from the state-house. Their emulation was manifested by the early hour of their appearance on the ground.*

At the dawn of the day, in a field of eighteen acres, marked out into lands of one acre each, fourteen ploughs started, each in its own land, according to its number, each being drawn by one pair of horses, oxen or mules. The other four lands were ploughed by teams promiscuously, as they finished their own. The animals, bred principally at the Humphreysville establishment, consisting of horses, oxen, and mules, were generally admired for their beauty, in particular four grey colts from the stock of Col. H's elegant Arabian horse Ranger. The land No. 7, was finished ploughing before 9 o'clock.†—The teams passing and re-passing each other in quick succession, presented the most animated picture of the kind we ever witnessed. Whilst this was performing in one field, the axe-men and carpenters were

* The colonel (as is his usual custom) rose very early, and upon coming to the field, was astonished to find them all upon the ground, and very pleasantly observed that although he was an old soldier, they had this morning stolen a march of him.

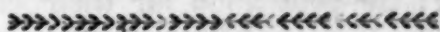
† This land was allotted to a respectable farmer, between 50 and 60 years of age, who had walked three miles to his work, and was ploughed by a fine pair of red oxen, the handsomest in the field.

selling, hewing, and framing timber in another, for a shepherd's lodge, which was ready to be raised before noon. His clothiers, paper makers, cloth and stocking weavers, had, during this process, prepared the boards and other covering, which was put on by the appropriate artificers with great dispatch, the painters instantly following them with their brushes.

At given signals the work people ceased from their labours, and refreshed themselves from a neighbouring booth, erected and furnished for the purpose. In the vicinity of the booth, a spot was cleared by the surplus hands for a sheep walk, (to protect them against winter storms) of about 100 feet in length—under this bower a table was laid for 152 persons. The dinner was principally prepared hot on the ground, by means of a portable Rumford kitchen.† What added much to the beauty of the general scenery, was the appearance of numerous Merino and other sheep, interspersed among the ploughmen. This flock had been brought from Humphreysville to eat the grass before it was destroyed by the ploughs. About 40 apprentices of the Humphreysville factory, dressed in neat and comely uniform, were employed in collecting materials for manure and other agricultural operations. It ought to be remembered, that, although many of those children belong to respectable families, yet some of them have been rescued from the most unfortunate situations. All were busy without bustle; each at his station, co-operating without noise as if animated with the same spirit. Before half past three o'clock, all the processes of ploughing, building, painting &c. were completed—the ploughing had been finished in a very skilful manner, two hours before this time. At the sound of the horn, the work people and a number

† The utility of the portable Rumford had not probably been experienced in the field on any previous occasion in New England. Five large puddings, various kinds of both meat and vegetables, were cooked in the boilers and steamers at the same time.

After dinner the concourse dispersed, much pleased with this new and rational mode of celebrating the Anniversary of Independence, and highly delighted with the perfect propriety of conduct of all present.



ON THE SUBJECT OF THE NATURAL PRODUCTIONS
EMPLOYED IN THE ARTS AND MANUFACTURES.



A large portion of its citizens, accustomed to consider a foreign nation as the immediate instrument of support, of acquiring wealth, or yielding the enjoyments and conveniencies of life, contract foreign partialities and foreign prejudices. They are more connected and more attached by interest to the government, whose

trade maintains, whose manufactures clothes, and whose luxuries enervate them, than to that, which gave them birth, gave them independence, gave them freedom. The short suspension of our commerce taught the American people these truths. It exhibited the inconvenience; it did more, it exposed the destructive evils of a dependance on a foreign government for goods of daily and domestic use. It proved, that to be free, a people should possess not a government and laws of their own only; but, that they must have their own workshops. It shewed that freedom consists not in a mere exemption from political subjection, but also from moral servitude.

In viewing the present zeal for the establishment and promotion of manufactures, every patriot's breast must glow with virtuous feeling. The contention, for so it may be termed; the contention for their establishment, is a strife for the independence of the country. The battles of the revolution broke our chains asunder, but they still cling around us; the spirit of manufactures, is now to cast them from us forever.

To lend their feeble aid in this important endeavor, is the ambition of the Philadelphia Linnean Society; and they believe they can the better accomplish this object, by directing their researches to the discovery, in this country, of those subjects, which, coming^d under their notice as a society of natural knowledge, are the objects of commerce and the materials of manufacture.

The list of articles of the *Materia Medica* of the United States, is already extensive and important. Many of its contents supersede in the practice of our physicians, the drugs of Europe and Asia.* By research and experiments, it no doubt could be greatly enlarged and improved to the advantage of the nation, and benefit of individuals.

Our forests yield some plants, which, as dyes, for brilliancy and permanency of coloring, are not surpassed

* See Barton's Collection towards a *Materia Medica*.

by any of South America or India; the number is, however, small, and the range of hues confined.

Our country is prolific of some metals.—Yet antimony and mercury are unknown as its productions. Arsenic, cobalt, copper, and the precious metals, have been found in such small quantities or peculiar states, as to render them little valuable or useful.

There can be no reason why all these metals should not exist abundantly in this country. There is every probability they do. The rocks, which are their gangues in other countries, in our own are generally diffused. It is indeed, no stretch of credulity to believe that their ores are every day trodden under foot, turned up by the plough or the spade, and thrown away or regarded as useless, from ignorance of their value. Similar cases have been known; of which the following may be cited:

Black jack, an ore of zinc, now largely employed in the making of brass, a few years past was used in Wales, for mending the roads; and the cobalt ores of Hesse, which now yield a neat profit of 14,000 pounds sterling per annum, were formerly employed for the same purpose.†

If ignorance should have caused, in Europe, at a late period, such a misapplication of valuable and productive ores, how very probable is it, that, in this country, where hardly one in a thousand has a superficial acquaintance even with their appearance, they may be in the hands of hundreds; may be used for common purposes constantly, and their importance never suspected.

It has happened, that valuable ores have remained unworked, to national and individual injury, from a just diffidence in the proprietors of expending their money fruitlessly, as they could not obtain a knowledge of their nature and richness.

† Watson's Chymical Essays, vol. 1st, page 45.

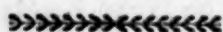
manufacturers great profits. The sail cloth factory is now under engagement to deliver 500 pieces to the government.

“Four factories for carding and spinning cotton; the oldest established here, 200 spindles; the next, one mule of 160 spindles; another one a throstle, with 42 spindles; and the last is now commenced to spin, and is established on the principle of the New-England factories, the proprietor calculating upon putting in motion 1,000 spindles, and has now at work a throstle with 108 spindles; in the course of next month he starts a mule of 204 spindles. The establishment has already cost upwards of 20,000 dollars in lots, buildings, machinery, &c. and will progress gradually, as the machinery can be made till 1,000 spindles are in motion. The machinery is all made here; the cotton yarns are sold to the country, except what is manufactured in town, into bedtickings, cords, jeans, chambrays, and plain goods.

“There are three wool carding machines and one for spinning. We supply a part of Tennessee, Ohio and upper Louisiana, with hats, boots, and shoes, and manufactured cotton and linen; we have excellent white and black smiths, cabinet makers (our cherry tree furniture far surpasses in beauty the mahogany) fancy and Windsor chair maker's, fancy chairs as high as seven dollars each, three carriage maker's shops, with numerous others of the different employments. Our buildings are of good coloured brick, put up in good style; plenty of the most beautiful white and variegated marble; footways neatly paved with brick, and the middle of the street with solid stone, firmly bedded.

“Our exports are hemp, bale ropes, hempen yarns, twine, fishing lines, seine twine, cables, tarred ropes, white work generally, cotton bagging, sail cloth, manufactured tobacco, salt-petre, gun powder, crop tobacco, about 3,000 hogsheads yearly out of the Kentucky river; beef, pork, lard, tallow, candles, whiskey, 200,000 gallons sent down the river yearly; flour, beans, pota-

toes, horses, bacon hams, &c. We have two small banks, that do considerable business ; the insurance office, capital 100,000 dollars, solely employed in discounting and dealing in exchange to the eastward, divides ten per cent. per annum for the last five years ; the other a branch of the Kentucky bank, capital 70,000 dollars makes ten per cent. per annum."



INLAND IMPROVEMENTS.



The following gentlemen, to wit, Gouverneur Morris, Stephen Van Rensselaer, De Witt Clinton, Simeon De Witt, William North, Thomas Eddy, and Peter B. Porter, appointed by the Legislature of the State of New-York, at its last session, to explore the most practicable route for improving the Inland Navigation from Hudson's river to Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, have already entered upon the duties of their appointment; an appointment, which in its result, promises the highest and most important advantages to the community.

N. Y. Paper.



KEENE, (N. H.) JULY 14.

*The Season.....*From all quarters we have the most flattering prospects of a goodly crop the ensuing harvest. We have been seldom favored with such a constant succession of sunshine and showers. Indian corn, in general never had a better appearance. The crops of hay will be at least middling, in addition to which is a considerable supply of old hay on hand. In some places clover and English grain have been winter killed; but on the whole, the tillers of the soil have much cause to rejoice and be glad.

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